

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the earlier Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 18, 2008, the Examiner noted that the Examiner was not able to pull the cited reference EP 0449567A. For the sake of completeness for the record, a copy of the earlier filed Information Disclosure Statement and the EP reference is enclosed herewith, along with another copy of the Supplementary European Search Report that cited the EP reference. The relevance of the EP reference as deemed by the European Patent Office searcher is noted in the such Search Report. Copies of the other references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement have not been included, since the Examiner indicated that they have already been considered earlier.

Summary of the Response

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 3-8 have been previously canceled. Claims 2 and 9-24 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 2 and 9-24.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Aoki et al. (US Patent No. 5,192,879).

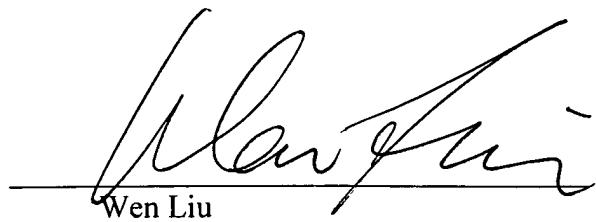
While Applicant disagrees with the rejection, in the interest of forwarding this case to early allowance, Applicant canceled claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Wen Liu
Registration No. 32,822

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LIU & LIU
444 S. Flower Street; Suite 1750
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (213) 830-5743
Facsimile: (213) 830-5741
Email: wliu@liulaw.com